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SOURCE Hospodar.

ANIMAL SLAUGHTER, FARM OUTPUT INCREASE

ANIMAL SLAUGHTER UP -- Hospodar, 25 May 50

The following figures, published by the State Statistical Office in its Statisticke Informace (Series V, No 12), give the number of animals slaughtered in the first quarter 1950 as compared to the first quarter 1949:

	<u>1st Qu 1949</u>	<u>1st Qu 1950</u>
Beef cattle	106,180	171,447
Calves	99,674	160,800
Commercial hogs*	281,886	654,093
Domestic hogs**	718,929	839,127
Total hogs	1,000,815	1,393,220

*Hogs sold on the public market

**Hogs consumed at the place of slaughter

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES -- Hospodar, 8 Jun 50

The gross productivity of one worker on the state farms amounted to 43,000 crowns in 1948 and 60,000 crowns in 1949. It is to reach 72,000 crowns in 1950, 82,000 crowns in 1951, and 107,500 crowns by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

This compares unfavorably with industrial productivity, which amounted to 230,000 crowns in 1949 and is to reach 280,000 crowns by the end of the Five-Year Plan. The productivity of the socialist agricultural sector has already exceeded the planned agricultural productivity for 1953, which has been estimated at 51,000 crowns. Productivity in the private agricultural sector was only 28,436 crowns in 1949, according to data of the accounting-auditing institute.

The basis for the increase in productivity is wages paid in accordance to merit. This system has been introduced in 2,114 farms employing 8,747 workers and, in the plant production sector, in 767 farms employing 12,171 workers. The increase in productivity has also resulted from the organization of socialist work into 3,192 work groups and platoons.

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This system resulted in the following record outputs per hectare in 1949: 43 quintals of wheat, 29 quintals of rape, and 420 quintals of potatoes.

HARVEST PROSPECTS GOOD -- Hospodar, 22 Jun 50

The sown area for all products has been as planned and the condition of the products has been, with minor exceptions, very good.

At present, bread grains are in the best condition, because they survived the winter very well and the spring humidity has greatly helped their growth. The final conclusion cannot be made now because subsurface moisture is low and it is absolutely necessary that immediate rains aid the ripening grains, chiefly spring wheat. The result is, therefore, still uncertain and will remain uncertain until the grain reaches storage. Heavy rains, hail, and droughts may seriously injure the crop. Such situations could result in certain technical and financial difficulties, but they could in no case disturb the supply system.

The condition of fodder grains, while so far good, depends on future rains. Should these fail to appear, there would be a danger of little fodder straw and a lower output of barley.

The amount of potatoes necessary for feeding livestock is constant and supplies are not as much threatened by poor crop as are supplies of consumer potatoes, although the latter are at present more or less in surplus. In case of a poor crop, the farmer first covers his needs and then sells his surplus. In the meantime, the condition of the potatoes is good and it may be hoped that it will remain so.

Sugar beets, which have been sown on a larger area in 1950, are in very good condition and raise the hopes for a good crop. The crop must be protected, however, against pests. If the present favorable condition continues, a further improvement in the sugar supply may be expected in due time.

The drought of recent weeks has had a disastrous effect on the development of fruit. Cherries appear to be increasingly damaged and pears and apples are beginning to fall in many places. Fruit growing, which is slowly recovering from the disasters of the past years, seems to be seriously threatened by the drought. Fruits are important for export, and cherries and summer pears are in demand on the foreign market. The winter apple crop has great importance for import, because it is necessary to import considerable amounts of fruit in case of a poor crop at home. Such imports could not be eliminated because of the health value of fruits.

This is truly a favorable year for vegetables, which are in a very good condition even in the continuing drought, because most of them are artificially irrigated and the warm weather speeds their growth. It can, therefore, be expected that Czechoslovakia will succeed in exporting several thousand carloads of vegetables and early potatoes without affecting the domestic market.

On the whole, it may be said that the present crop situation is very good, somewhat better than that of last year. A smooth fulfillment of contract obligations is expected. -- Engr Jan Pitra

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